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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/885,736	06/20/2001	Yuichi Kawaguchi	M2047-11	5582
7278	7590	07/27/2005	EXAMINER	
DARBY & DARBY P.C. P. O. BOX 5257 NEW YORK, NY 10150-5257				GURSHMAN, GRIGORY
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2132				

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/885,736	KAWAGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Grigory Gurshman	Art Unit 2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment of the independent claims reflects "a personal certificate" being "at least one of a card type or a book type". This limitation necessitates the new grounds of rejection provided herein.
2. Applicant's arguments have been thoroughly considered but are found mute in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,425,081 B1) in view of Lofgren (US 2001/0037313 A1).
5. Referring to the instant claims, Iwamura discloses an electronic watermark method, used for a network, comprising a plurality of entities, wherein provided separately are an entity for embedding an electronic watermark in encrypted data that are exchanged by said plurality of entities, and an entity for performing an encryption process and a corresponding decryption process (see abstract).

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6. Referring to the independent claims 1, the limitation "a personal certificate containing the identifier; the personal certificate also containing a readable authentic image in which a digital watermark relative the identifier is embedded" is met by Figs. 1 and 2 representing image data combined with watermark and user identification (g + d1). The limitation "read means for reading the authentic image from the personal certificate" is met by an image decoding unit (see Fig. 3). Iwamura teaches comparing the hash values of the image data combined with electronic watermarks for verification (see Figs. 4, 5, 13). Iwamura, however, does not explicitly teach extracting the digital watermark and comparing it against the digital watermark stored in the database.

Referring to the instant claims, Lofgren discloses a digital watermarking systems (see abstract and Fig. 2). Lofgren teaches the user terminal includes a watermark reader, and a capture device to capture an image of a watermarked document. The central site includes a database of image hashes. The user terminal communicates with the central site. The watermark reader reads a watermark and computes a hash of a captured image, and passes the hash to the central site for comparison with the database of image hashes (see abstract). Lofgren also shows that certificate bearing the watermark is a card type (see portal card 62 in Figs. 2 and 4).

7. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the watermark embedding system of Iwamura by adding means for extracting the watermark and comparing means for comparing the extracted water mark with the watermark retrieved from the database as taught by Lofgren. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the

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watermark embedding system by adding means for extracting the watermark and comparing means for comparing the extracted watermark with the watermark retrieved from the database as taught by Lofgren for assuring that an on-line purchaser of goods has physical custody of the credit card being charged (see Lofgren, lines 0005).

8. Referring to claims 2, 3, 9, 10, it is well known in the art to store the image having the embedded watermark in the information carrier of magnetic recording media. For example watermarked images are stored on CDs and magnetic discs as well as on ID and credit cards.

9. Referring to claims 7 and 15, Iwamura teaches communicating the watermark from watermark table (104 in Fig. 1) to embedding unit, which meets the limitations of the instant claims.

10. Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwamura (U.S. Patent No. 6.425.081 B1) in view of Lofgren (US 2001/0037313 A1) and further in view of Podilchuk (U.S. Patent No. 6.778.678 B1).

11. Referring to the instant claims, Iwamura and Lofgren teach using the digital watermark for authentication of the personal certificate. However they do not explicitly teach having the element of the digital watermark randomly generated.

12. Referring to the instant claims, Podilchuk discloses high-capacity digital image watermarking based on waveform modulation of image components (see abstract). Podilchuk teaches that either a "0" bit or a "1" bit of digital watermark information is added to a given one of the N components of the image by applying the corresponding

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length-n random vector to the n elements of that component. Perceptual weights generated by the above-noted perceptual model may be used to determine how strong each element of the random vectors can be without significantly degrading image quality (see Detailed Description).

13. Therefore at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the watermark embedding system of Iwamura and Lofgren by having the having the element of the digital watermark randomly generated as taught in Podilchuk. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the watermark embedding system by having the element of the digital watermark randomly generated as taught in Podilchuk for eliminating the possibilities of duplication of the digital watermark.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

14. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

15. Claim 16 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwamura (U.S. Patent No. 6,425,081 B1).

16. Referring to claim 16, Iwamura discloses an electronic watermark method, used for a network, comprising a plurality of entities, wherein provided separately are an entity for embedding an electronic watermark in encrypted data that are exchanged by said plurality of entities, and an entity for performing an encryption process and a corresponding decryption process (see abstract).

17. Referring to the limitation, certificate comprising “a unique identifier” is met by user ID (see Fig. 2). The limitation “an authentic image of an authorized user” is met by image data g . The limitation “authentic image containing embedded therein digital watermark information corresponding to the identifier” is met by image data with electronic watermark ($g+d_1$) – Fig. 1. Iwamura teaches that ID and watermark are send to the remote server, which meets the limitation “means for permitting communication of the identifier and the digital watermark ...” to the remote location. It is inherent to have an image viewable by eye.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Grigory Gurshman whose telephone number is (571)272-3803. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571)272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

G.G.

Grigory Gurshman
Examiner
Art Unit 2132


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